

## FACTS

### About the American Shorthorn Association

- Founded in 1883, the American Shorthorn Association works to maintain and increase the long improvement strain identified with Shorthorns.
- There are over 7,000 members of the American Shorthorn Association.
- The American Shorthorn Association sponsors shows, sales, and numerous herd improvement programs throughout the country.
- The organization sponsors ROP (Records of Performance), allowing the Shorthorn producer to compare an individual animal to all within the herd, to more effectively select animals for herd improvement.
- Sire Evaluation through progeny testing is one of the most progressive tools in breed improvement. This American Shorthorn Association project provides an evaluation of a bull's ability to transmit to his offspring valuable traits.
- The Lassies, an organization of wives and daughters of Shorthorn breeders was formed in 1956 to effect a closer relationship among families. Lassie members build and maintain booths at fairs; serve at field days, shows and sales; sponsor awards; and do publicity. A National Lassie Queen is chosen annually as a good will ambassador.
- Junior Shorthorn Association was formed in 1968 to help young cattle producers exchange ideas for progress in the cattle industry. Field days, shows and sales, promotional programs, and judging are some of their activities.

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- First improved breed imported to America. It originated around 1600 in England.
- Qualities of rapid growth, easy feeding and high quality were bred into the animal in its formative stage.
- The Polled Shorthorn was developed in 1881 in Minnesota; the first major beef breed developed in America.
- Shorthorns have the ability to pass on desirable characteristics to their offspring.
- Producers report up to 75 pounds additional weaning weight through the use of Shorthorn bulls.
- More than 30 recognized beef breeds trace their origins to Shorthorns. These include Angus and Charolais.
- The Shorthorn breed is feed-efficient, with the capabilities of grading 100 per cent choice on 90-day finishing.
- Records show Shorthorns have the best record of any breed for grading low choice or better at slaughter weights.
- Shorthorn cows are docile, with excellent milking ability.
- Shorthorns are used extensively in 4-H and FFA work.
- The breed is adaptable to all climate and feeding conditions.

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